

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device, comprising an antiferroelectric liquid crystal material (AFLC material) having smectic layers, and two substrates confining said AFLC material therebetween, wherein said AFLC material is uniaxial negative, the AFLC material being uniaxial as a consequence of a surface stabilization of said AFLC material and of a selected smectic tilt angle θ of said AFLC material.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrates are located at a mutual distance that is sufficiently small to accomplish said surface stabilization.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said AFLC material comprises a pitch compensated AFLC material in order to accomplish said surface stabilization.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said smectic tilt angle θ is selected such that $40^\circ \leq \theta \leq 50^\circ$.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 3 1, wherein said smectic tilt angle θ is selected such that $42^\circ \leq \theta \leq 48^\circ$.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 3 1, wherein said smectic tilt angle θ is selected such that $43^\circ \leq \theta \leq 47^\circ$.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 3 1, wherein said smectic tilt angle θ is selected such that $44^\circ \leq \theta \leq 46^\circ$.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 3 1, wherein said smectic tilt angle θ is selected such that $\theta = 45^\circ$.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 3 1, wherein said AFLC material is such that said smectic tilt angle θ reaches 45° and deviates from this value by less than 3° within a temperature range being at least 50°C wide.

Claim 10. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said negative uniaxial AFLC material presents a smallest refractive index (n_o) in a direction perpendicular to said substrates.

Claim 11. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said AFLC material presents a molecule tilt plane parallel to said substrates.

Claim 12. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the substrates are located at a mutual distance which is sufficiently small to provide not only a surface stabilization of said AFLC material but also to make said molecular tilt plane parallel to said substrates.

Claim 13. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said smectic layers are oriented perpendicular to said substrates.

Claim 14. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said smectic layers are oriented perpendicular to said substrates and presents a chevron structure.

Claim 15. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said uniaxial negative AFLC material presents a cone axis and an optic axis, which is perpendicular to said cone axis.

Claim 16. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said AFLC material presents a sharp threshold for an AFF transition.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for applying an electric field over said AFLC material, the liquid crystal device thereby being an electrooptic liquid crystal device, wherein said AFLC material being uniaxial negative in a zero-field state ($E=0$).

Claim 18. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said AFLC material being switchable by the application of an electric field to a positive biaxial, ferroelectric state.

Claim 19. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said AFLC material, by the application of an electric field E , is switchable from a uniaxial negative, antiferroelectric state to a biaxial positive, ferroelectric state presenting an effective optic axis directed perpendicular to the applied field E .

Claim 20. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the AFLC material, when being in a zero-field condition ($E=0$), presents an optic axis that is parallel to a direction in which said electrical field is applied in a field-on condition.

Claim 21. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said AFLC material presents an effective optic axis being switchable between two directions lying in a plane containing said electric field E .

Claim 22. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said AFLC material presents an effective optic axis being switchable between a zero-field direction and a field-on direction, said zero-field direction and said field-on direction lying in a plane containing said electric field E .

Claim 23. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said AFLC material presents an effective optic axis being switchable between three orthogonal directions.

Claim 24. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 23, wherein two of said three orthogonal directions are parallel to the substrates.

Claim 25. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said AFLC material presents an effective optic axis being switchable between three orthogonal directions:

- a first direction in a zero-field condition in which the AFLC material is uniaxial negative with the effective optic axis directed perpendicular to said substrates,
- a second direction in a positive field-on condition in which the AFLC material is biaxial positive with the effective optic axis directed parallel to said substrates, and
- a third direction in a negative field-on condition in which the AFLC material is biaxial positive with the effective optic axis directed parallel to said substrates and perpendicular to said second direction.

Claim 26. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said device being structured as a transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) A transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 26, further comprising additional passive optical components.

Claim 28. (Original) A transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 27, further comprising additional active optical components.

Claim 29. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said device being structured as a transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device, wherein said means for applying an electric field comprises electrodes arranged on inner surfaces of said substrates.

Claim 30. (Original) A transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 29, wherein said electrodes define a plurality of addressable pixels.

Claim 31. (Original) A transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 30, wherein said addressable pixels are arranged in orthogonal rows and columns.

Claim 32. (Original) A transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 30, comprising a thin film transistor circuit for each addressable pixel.

Claim 33. (Original) A transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 30, wherein said means for applying an electrical field is arranged to apply electric fields of alternate ($\pm E$) sign to alternate columns.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said device being structured as a transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device, further comprising two polarizers arranged on opposite sides of the AFLC material.

Claim 35. (Original) A transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 34, wherein said two polarizers are linear polarizers.

Claim 36. (Original) A transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 35, wherein said linear polarizers are oriented parallel and perpendicular, respectively, to an average smectic layer normal z .

Claim 37. (Original) A transmissive electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 34, wherein said polarizers are circular polarizers.

Claim 38. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said device being structured as a reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device.

Claim 39. (Original) A reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 38, further comprising additional passive optical components.

Claim 40. (Original) A reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 38, further comprising additional active optical components.

Claim 41. (Original) A reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 38, wherein one of said two substrates is in the form of a rear reflective substrate.

Claim 42. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said device being structured as a reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device and wherein said means for applying an electric field comprises electrodes arranged on inner surfaces of said substrates.

Claim 43. (Original) A reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 42, wherein said electrodes define a plurality of addressable pixels.

Claim 44. (Original) A reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 43, wherein said addressable pixels are arranged in orthogonal rows and columns.

Claim 45. (Original) A reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 43, comprising a thin film transistor for each addressable pixel.

Claim 46. (Original) A reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 38, wherein said means for applying an electrical field is arranged to apply electric fields of alternate ($\pm E$) sign to alternate columns.

Claim 47. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said device being structured as a reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device, further comprising a linear polarizer arranged at a front substrate of said two substrates.

Claim 48. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said device being structured as a reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device, further comprising a circular polarizer arranged at a front substrate of said two substrates.

Claim 49. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said device being structured as a reflective electrooptic liquid crystal device, a rear one of said two substrates being a CMOS silicon backplane for active addressing of the liquid crystal in individual pixels.

Claim 50. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said device being structured as a phase modulation device.

Claim 51. (Original) An electrooptic phase modulation liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 50,

wherein said AFLC material presents a smectic layer normal direction z and an effective optic axis being switchable between three orthogonal directions:

- a first direction in a zero-field condition in which the AFLC material is uniaxial negative with the effective optic axis directed perpendicular to said substrates,
- a second direction in a positive field-on condition in which the AFLC material is biaxial positive with the effective optic axis directed parallel to said substrates, and
- a third direction in a negative field-on condition in which the AFLC material is biaxial positive with the effective optic axis directed parallel to said substrates and perpendicular to said second direction; and

wherein the device being arranged to receive linear polarized light with the direction of polarization being at 45 degrees in relation to said normal direction (z) of the smectic layers.

Claim 52. (Original) An electrooptic phase modulation liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 51, wherein said device further comprises polarization means arranged to accomplish a linear polarization of incident light in a direction at 45 degrees in a relation to said normal direction (z) of the smectic layers.

Claim 53. (Original) An electrooptic phase modulation liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 51, further comprising electrode means defining a plurality of pixels, each of which allows an individual phase-modulation of incident light.

Claim 54. (Original) An electrooptic phase modulation liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 50, said device comprising means arranged to accomplish polarization of incident light parallel to an effective optic axis in a first synclinic state of said AFLC material and perpendicular to an effective optic axis in a second synclinic state of said AFLC material.

Claim 55. (Original) An electrooptic phase modulation liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 54, further comprising electrode means defining a plurality of pixels, each of which allows an individual phase-modulation of incident light.

Claim 56. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said device being structured as a polarization switching device.

Claim 57. (Original) An electrooptic polarization switching liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 56, wherein the device is arranged to switch the polarization of light between different linear and circular polarization states.

Claim 58. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said AFLC material being in the form of a dispersed AFLC material.

Claim 59. (Original) A electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 58, wherein said device being switchable between non-scattering and scattering states.

Claim 60. (Original) A electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 58, wherein said AFLC material being dispersed in a polymer part.

Claim 61. (Original) A electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 58, wherein said polymer part is a polymer discotic liquid crystal.

Claim 62. (Original) An electrooptic liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said AFLC material being arranged in domains presenting mutually different orientation of smectic layers of said AFLC materials, in order for said device to operate as a field-controlled scattering device.

Claim 63. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the AFLC material is polymer-stabilized.

Claim 64. (Original) An antiferroelectric liquid crystal device switchable between bright and dark states, said device comprising an AFLC material having a molecular tilt angle in an anticlinic state that is selected such that the extinction in said black state is substantially insensitive to a smectic layer orientation in different liquid crystal domains in the device.

Claim 65 to 68. (Canceled).

Claim 69. (Previously Presented) An antiferroelectric liquid crystal device (AFLCD), comprising a surface stabilized AFLC material which is confined between two substrates and which is switchable between, on the one hand, a biaxial negative state having the axis corresponding to the smallest principal value of refractive index directed perpendicular to said substrates and, on the other hand, two biaxial positive states having the axis of the largest principal value of refractive index oriented parallel to the substrates.

Claim 70. (Canceled).